RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 1st August, 1988/10 Sravana, 1910 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Overhauling of Calcutta telephones

*61. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be ing Industries recently;

(a) whether a draft project report for the overhauling of Calcutta Telephones has since been submitted by the Eastern Office of the Confederation of Engineering Industries recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has since been initated on this project report; and

(d) if not, wat are the raasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) to (d) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A Committee of the Confederation of Engineering Industries prepared a list of suggestions for the improvement of the functioning of the Calcutta Telephones to General Manager, Telephones, Calcutta. The suggestion in brief and action taken thereof are as under:—

(a)	*Suggestion*	*Re wiring of multi-storeyed buildings*
	Action taken:	Already being done as part of Mission-Better Communication, wherever needed.
(b)	*Suggestion*	*Replacement of underground cables*
	Action taken:	Already being done wherever required.
(c)	*Suggestion*	*Taking special sanction of the DOT for replacing 9 Pentaconta exchanges by electronic exchanges*
	Action taken:	None of the Pentaconta Exchanges (15 numbers of total capacity 70,500 lines) have outlived their life. Their replacement will be considered only during the 8th and 9th Plans. However, improvement in the working of the Pentaconta Exchanges is being made so that they give satisfactory service.
(d)	*Suggestion*	*Giving relief to the telecom system by loading the business traffic through overlay net ork either through separate cletular Radio or thorugh satellite system.*
	Action taken:	This has not been accepted by the Government as priority requirement as it involves a huge investment
(e)	*Suggestion*	*They have proposed to Calcutta Telephones to form planning and implementatior cell for the above.*
	Action taken:	A very big Planning Organisation under a separate Additional General Manager's charge is already available for planning and Implementation.
(f)	*Suggestion*	*Dra up plans for motivating staff and to introduce incentive schemes to improve productivity and discipline.*
	Action taken:	Already being done as part of Mission-Better Communication. Incentive schemes for Telephone Operatoss Line-Staff Technicians etc. have already been introduced.
(g)	*Suggestion*	*To improve the public relations by putting a senior officer in each exchange to meet the subscribers and settle their grievances.*

Action taken: . . . . The Area Managers are available for meeting the subscribers on prescribed days. In addition the subscribers can always seek an appointment with Additional General Manager (O) or the General Manager Telephones, to settle their grievances. This public relations will get strengthened under the Mission-Better Communication through intensive training to the staff who deal with the public.

(h) *Suggestion.* . . . . *Cabinates and pillars should be locked to prevent thefts*

Action taken . . . . Already being done as part of Mission-Better Communication.

(i) *Suggestion* . . . . *Demages to the Cables due to digging should be preventen by proper coordination with other utility services.*

Action taken: . . . . A High Power Coordination Body already exists for this purpose.

(j) *Suggestion.* . . . . *Subscribers may tbe provided with detailed billing of STD calls.*

Action taken: . . . . This is technically feasible at present only in E-10 Btype electronic exchanges. Detailed bills are being provided to the subscribers connected to such exchanges on payment of a fee of Rs. 25/-.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: If you look at the statement which has been supplied, you will find that the Confederation of the Engineering Industries has submitted ten suggestions. Out of those ten, as far as I could see, all the suggestions have been accepted, barring one, viz. item No. (d). But in reality even after the acceptance of the majority of the suggestions made by the Confederation, there has been no change in the services of the telephones in Calcutta. Practically there has been no improvement. Rather it has further deteriorated. If you do not accept that statement, I would remain satisfied. If you accept the statement, you will find that the condition remains where it was. The problems of the subscribers are mounting very rapidly. Now, you may remember that the hon. Mr Sathe, when he was Minister of Communications, had assured the House some time ago that the telephone system in Calcutta would be overhauled and properly renovated. What has happened to that assurance? May I know if the Government has since prepared any blueprint for overhauling the entire system? If there has been any proposal in the blueprint for overhauling the system.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you overhauling.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I want to know the details, including the financial implications and the implementation of the bulepoint.

श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह : सभापति महोदय, जैसे कि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा बहुत से सुझाव माने गये और बहुत से सुझाव रह गये। मान्यवर, जहां पर बहुत से धन की आवश्यकता होती है वहां पर कभी कभी सुझाव मानने में दिक्कत हो जाती है। वैसे तो कलकत्ता के सुधार के लिए, मार्डनाइज़ेशन के लिए काफी बड़ी योजना बनाई गई जिसका प्रावधान सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में किया भी गया है। यह भी प्रयास किया गया कि कलकत्ता के सुधार के लिए जो पहले से काम किया जा रहा है साथ ही साथ मिशन-बेहतर संचार के लिए बहुत से काम किये जा रहे हैं। इस कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत काफी योजनाएं बनाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है जिसके अन्दर 1 लाख, 70 हजार, 5 सौ एक्सचेंज लाइनों की स्थापना होने वाली है। इसमें 1-10-1985 को 25 वर्ष पूरा करने वाली 64 हजार लाइनों को बदला जाएगा और 20 से 25 वर्ष सेवा पूरी करने वाली 32 हजार 9 सौ लाइनों को बदला जाएगा इसी प्रकार 50 हजार जंक्शन उपलब्ध कराने के लिए व्यवस्था ा रही है। पी.सी.एम. 12 हज़ार, 20 हज़ार आपटिकल फाइबर 15 हज़ार डिजिटल माइक्रो, 60 हज़ार

किलोमीटर डेप्थ केबल का निर्माण होगा। 1100 किलोमीटर भूमिगत केबल को बदला जाएगा। पांच सौ केबल बिपरो को स्थापित किया जाएगा। 1200 डी.पी. स्थापित करने हैं। एक लाख उपकरणों की बदली की जानी है। मान्यवर, इतनी योजनाएं बनाई गई हैं।

श्री सभापति : आप सीरियली कर रहे हैं।

श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह : मान्यवर, इससे कलकत्ता के केबलों में, टेलीफोन में काफी सुधार आएगा। बहुत से हमारे टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज बहुत पुराने हैं, इसे बदलने की आवश्यकता है, स्टाइगर बहुत पुराने हैं। कलकत्ता में तो हमारे सबसे पुरानी टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज बने हुए हैं, उसको बिना बदले हम उसमें सुधार नहीं कर सकते। मान्यवर, जो यह योजना बनाई गई है, इसको पूरा कर लेने के बाद काफी सुधार आ जाएगा और इसमें कुछ एक्सचेंज लगाए जा रहे हैं और भी बहुत से काम किए जा रहे हैं, योजनाए बनाई जा रही हैं। इस तरह मान्यवर, माननीय सदस्य की जो इच्छा है, जिस तरह से वे चाहते हैं कि सुधार हो, सुधार हो जाएगा।

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister by which time all these proposals will be executed? Secondly, may I also know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have under consideration or contemplation of any proposal of setting up of a corporation for the Calcutta Telephones as has been done in the case of Delhi Telephones and Bombay Telephones? Finally, may I also know whether the Government proposes to issue public bonds for raising funds for this purpose?

श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह : मान्यवर, जैसा मैंने पहले भी कहा है, जो यह योजना बनाई गई है।... **(व्यवधान)**...

श्री चित्त बसु : कब तक समाप्त होगी।

श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह : इस योजना का पूरा करने के लिए 247 करोड़ रुपये की आवश्यकता होगी। मान्यवर, जो अभी तक प्रोवीजन किया गया है, सातवीं योजना में 130 करोड़ रुपये का प्रोवीजन किया गया है, इसमें सात करोड़ का मान्यवर काम हो चुका है, और भी काम तेजी से किया जा रहा है। यह भी प्रयास किया जा रहा है कि और भी धन उपलब्ध किया जाय, जिससे जल्दी से काम पूरा कराया जाय। जहां तक कारपोरेशन बनाने की बात है, निगम बनाने की बात है, बम्बई या दिल्ली जैसी बात है, तो अभी इस पर कोई विचार नहीं हुआ है। बाद में देखा जाएगा कि क्या किया जा सकता है, लेकिन कलकत्ता में अच्छी सेवा कैसे दी जा सकती है, यह प्रयास किया जाएगा।

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister as to how many telephone lines are out of order in Calcutta at the moment? Secondly, may I know whether a sub-committee was constituted in 1986 comprising the Members of the Telephone Advisory Committee? Has any follow-up action has been taken on the basis of the recommendations made by that sub-committee which was constituted in 1986?

श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह : मान्यवर, 2,50,000 केपेसिटी की क्षमता कलकत्ता टेलीफोनों की है, इसमें से 2,19,000 काम कर रहे हैं, लेकिन क्षमता जितनी होनी चाहिए, उतनी लाइन नहीं लगी हैं। इस वक्त हमारे पास जो सूचना उपलब्ध है, उसके अनुसार 9000 लाइनें खराब हैं।

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Sir, part (b) of the supplementary has not been answered. Secondly, hon. Minister may please find out the figure whether it is 9,000 or 20,000.

श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह : मान्यवर, 9,000 है, जो हमारे पास रिपोर्ट है।

श्री सभापति : कोई कमेटी बनाई थी, उसका कुछ पूछ रहे हैं।

श्री देव प्रसाद राय : सर, 1986 में जो कमेटी बनी थी, उसकी रिकमण्डेशन पर कोई कार्यवाही हुई या नहीं ?

श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह : मान्यवर, जो कमेटी बनाई गई थी, उस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आई हुई है, उसका एग्जामिन किया जा रहा है।

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, this long statement by the hon. Minister is no consolation for the subscribers of Calcutta because many things have been said about improvements in telephones. But everybody knows that the telephone system in Calcutta is in a shambles. It is not new consolation. If you put it to them, they will simply ignore it. Ministers have said so many things earlier also but nothing has been done. I would like to put some simple questions. Let the Minister implement all these big schemes. But if any telephone is out of order in Calcutta and if it is reported, it is not rectified within three months. Even for six months after continuously reminding the telephone is not rectified by the telephone officials. This is a fact in Calcutta. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether at least he would see to it that whatever may be the big plans at least the telephone subscribers whose telephones get out of order, after detecting the fault, the telephone authorities will take measures to rectify the same within 24 hours or at least, within 48 hours. Secondly, Sir, I would like to know how many applications are pending for new connections and when those applicants are expected to get those connections.

My last supplementary is that public relations department of Calcutta Telephones says subscribers can always seek appointment with the Additional General Manager or the General Manager, Telephones. Sir, I would like to submit that it is totally incorrect. It is very difficult to see the telephone bosses in Calcutta. Sir, I may explain that even to see a divisional engineer, a very petty official, it is very difficult The Government should instruct the authorities of Calcutta Telephones ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you give instructions that they will meet the Members of Parliament...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: In S.T.D., he would have to pay a couple of thousand rupees for such a long speech.

...(*Interruption*)...

श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह : सभापति जी, यह बात सही है कि कलकत्ता में टेलीफोन की स्थिति जितनी अच्छी होनी चाहिए, उतनी अच्छी नहीं है। खास बात यह है कि वहां पर जो सड़कें हैं, वह 6 परसेंट से कम हैं, जिसमें बिजली की लाइन जाती हैं, पानी की पाइप-लाइन बिछाई जाती हैं, केबल बिछाए जाते हैं हमारे टेलीफोन के। इस तरह मान्यवर, बहुत से काम उसमें किए जाते हैं और कभी-कभी इतना अवरोध पैदा हो जाता है कि केबल काट दिये जाते हैं, जिससे काफी परेशानी होती हैं, लोगों की लाइन खराब हो जाती हैं, टेलीफोन खराब हो जाते हैं। मान्यवर, यह स्थिति वहां है। इसलिये ज्यादा से ज्यादा कोशिश की जा रही है कि जहां पर ज्यादा केबल कट जाते हैं, जहां पर ऐसी स्थिति है, वहां इसको ठीक किया जाय। साथ ही साथ यह भी प्रयास किया जा रहा है कि जो कलकत्ता में केबल की चोरी होती है, इसके लिये बंगाल सरकार को भी लिखा गया है, कहा भी गया है कि इस चोरी को रोकने के लिये प्रयास किया जाय। अगर इसमें वहां की सरकार मदद करेगी तो इसमें सफलता मिलेगी।

मान्यवर, साथ ही साथ यह बात भी है कि जो हमने योजना बनाई है, उससे स्पष्ट होता है कि हम जल्दी से जल्दी कलकत्ता में काफी सुधार करना चाहते हैं। इसके लिये, 45,000 अतिरिक्त लाइन हम डाल रहे हैं, जो हमारे 91 हजार पुराने एक्सचेंज हैं, उनको हम बदलने जा रहे हैं। इस तरह से जो हमारा प्रयास है, इससे लगता है कि जल्दी से जल्दी हम जिस तरह से काम करना चाहते हैं, उसमें सफलता मिलेगी।

जहां तक कर्मचारियों का, अधिकारियों का संबंध अच्छा होना चाहिये, तो मान्यवर हमारा यह प्रयास होगा और हमारे आदेश भी हैं कि पब्लिक रिलेशन अच्छा हो, लोगों से अच्छा व्यवहार किया जाये और प्रयास किया जाये कि लोगों को जितनी सुविधा हम दे सकें, देने का प्रयास करें ।

श्री विश्व बन्धु गुप्ता : मान्यवर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी यह कहा कि जो असल में कठिनाई इस बारे में है कलकत्ता टेलीफोन को ठीक करने में, एक बड़ी कठिनाई यह है कि केबल जो है, इनके साथ पानी के पाइप, बिजली के पाइप जमीन के नीचे डाले जाते हैं । शायद उन्होंने यह देखा होगा कि सी. डाट ने एक नया टेलीफोन बनाया है, जिसमें केबल की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है और तीन किलोमीटर तक वह टेलीफोन डिजिटल पर चल सकता है । तो क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस प्रकार के टेलीफोन से क्या कलकत्ता का कुछ भला हो सकता है ? यह काम जल्दी हो सकता है ताकि केबल न डालने पड़े और सबको टेलीफोन एकदम मिल जाये, जो जल्दी से चलने लगें ।

श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह : मान्यवर, इस पर अभी कार्यवाही चल रही है, इसे देखा जा रहा है । अभी कोई डिसीजन नहीं हुआ है ।

श्री सभापति : इवेल्यूएशन किया जा रहा है ।

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the Minister has taken charge very recently. Therefore, he should be briefed about the situation May I point out to the Minister himself that the telephone disorder in Calcuta takes place in some selective areas and there are places where the telephone disorder does not take place at all. In Burra Bazar area, in stock market area, in share market area and in some other places where very rich people live, the telephones do not go out of order. Even if they go out of order, repair is done instantaneously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At some places it is done and at some other places...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I do not bring in the question of kickback here. The point is, in most of the places of Calcutta, where middle class people live, the telephone authorities are with the definite intention of not acting according to the need of the situation. That has been our complaint, complaint from all sides, and there has been no remedy. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Minister is ready to enquire whether payment of money is playing a big role in the repair of the phones that are in disorder. That is the first part of my question. That second part is, whether he is ready to remit the bill, the rent bill, of those subscribers whose phones have been out of order for a long time. Poor subscribers have to pay the rent without the service. This is a case of discrimination. Therefore, if you cannot repair the lines, please do not ask them to pay the rent. I would like to know whether the Minister is ready to consider the question of remission of the rents of those subscribers whose lines are out of order for a long time. Thirdly, there are concrete cases of dereliction of duty so far as big officers are concerned I quote. Sir the Area Manager, South Calcutta. A number of people requested him to get the lines done, about three months back. No action has been taken. I complain no action has been taken. The Area Manager, South Calcutta, did not carry out the work even though the work order was passed about three months ago. This is the way the leading people in whom he has confidence and on whose advice he is given us reports here, are working there. Therefore, my question is whether money is playing a role and whether he is ready to remit the bills of the subscribers whose phones are out of orders

श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह : मान्यवर, माननीय सदस्य किकबैक के बारे में ज्यादा जानते होंगे । मुझे तो जानकारी नहीं है । मान्यवर, अभी कलकत्ता के टेलीफोंस के बारे में जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने अर्ज किया कि वहां पर टेलीफोन्स बहुत पुराने हैं, उनका सिस्टम पुराना है और खराब हो चुका है । मान्यवर, इसमें सुधार के लिये हम प्रयास कर रहे हैं । सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में जो 90,300 टेलीफोंस खराब हालत में हैं, उसको पूरा हम बदल रहे

हैं। यह काम दो सालों में सन 1990 तक पूरा हो जायेगा। साथ ही साथ मान्यवर, 50,000 इलेक्ट्रोनिक टेलीफोंस हम लगा चुके हैं। इनके लगने के बाद आप को कोई शिकायत का मौका नहीं मिलेगा। मान्यवर, जहां केबिल खराब हो जाते हैं, उनको भी ठीक किया जाता है और आपकी जो दूसरी दिक्कतें हैं उनको भी दूर किया जायेगा। मान्यवर, यह कहना कि जो टेलीफोंस खराब हो जाते हैं उनके बिल्स का भुगतान न लिया जाय यह ठीक नहीं है; अगर आप अपना टेलीफोन कटवाते नहीं है तो मिनिमम चार्ज तो देना पड़ता है। जो रूल के अन्तर्गत काम है वह तो किया जायेगा और पब्लिक रिलेशन का काम भी हम जितना अच्छा कर सकते हैं, करेंगे।

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What is this? You cannot give the service, but you want them to pay. He says that the telephone should be disconnected. This is an irresponsible statement of the Minister which will help hte administration go out of order more. (*Interruptions*). It is an absolutely irresponsible statement made by the Minister. It will help inaction to continue in Calcutta. No work, no pay for the workers. (*Interruptions*). He should explain. They cannot give the service. Why should we pay the rent? I want you protection, Mr. Chairman? Is it justice? (*Interruptions*). I want you protecton. If they cannot render the service, can they ask the subscriber to pay the rent? Is it justice?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): He only said what the rules are. What the hon. Member said is objectionable. He was only explaining what the rules are. How can it be held that he is irresponsible?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The rule has to be changed. (*Interruptions*). The Hon. Minister was defending him. The rule can be changed. Rule is not sacrosanct. It can be changed.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Why should he not go to the court? Court is the proper authority. Neither you not I can decide this. The Minister also cannot decide... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Telephone Advisory Committee is there. It can be raised there. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Can he be asked to pay for a train which is stationary, which is not moving? Similarly, the telephone is not working. It is happening in every State.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: We want the rule to be changed. I want a decision from the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN They will look into it.

श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह : मान्यवर, इतना प्राविजन दिया हुआ है कि अगर कोई टेलीफोन खराब है और 45 दिन से ज्यादा खराब है तो सूचना देने पर उन को रिबेट दिया जा सकता है, इतना प्राविजन हमारे पास है।

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Not only in Calcutta, all over the country the telephones are in doldrums and the hallmark of the Telecommunication Department is incompetence and irresponsibility. In reply to a previous question the honourable Minister said that sufficient funds were not forthcoming for the improvement of the telephone system in Calcutta. When the Government of India is wasting a lot of money on unnecessary things such as the trip of the Prime Minister abroad, I would like to ask the Minister... (*Interruptions*) It is a simple, straight, question I would like to ask. Why are not sufficient funds made available for the improvement of the telephone system in Calcutta?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: He is bringing unnecessary things. He should not be allowed to say irrelevant things.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: I have not said anything unparliamentary. A reference to the Prime Minister is not unnecessary. The Prime Minister is not God....

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Mr. Chairman, irrelevant things should not go on record.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: You may be worshipping the Prime Minister. But we are not worshipping the Prime Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Irrelevant things should not be brought while putting supplementaries.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: I have not said anything irrelevant. I have only said, when money is wasted on certain things, vital communication is not getting sufficient funds for improvement.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: I would like to confine myself to the city of Calcutta itself though there is disorder in the working of telephones in the whole country. I would like to know how many phones are there still on crossbar in the city of Calcutta and how many of them have been put on the digital system. And is there any idea of converting all of them into the digital system early? With the introduction of the second commercial satellite what will be the difference and how soon is it going to be introduced?

श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह : मान्यवर, कलकत्ता में क्रासबार 70,500 पन्द्रह एक्सचेंज के हैं.....

डा (श्रीमती) सरोजिनी महिषी : किनने हैं मैंने पूछा, यह आंकड़े, यह नम्बर यह मिसलिडिंग होते हैं। प्रतिशत कितने हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: On a point of order ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: During Question Hour there is no point of order.....

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: All right, no point of order. I just want a clarification.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, he cannot raise it...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: All right, all right. I am no raising a point of order. It is only a clarification...(*Interruptions*) ... It is only a clarification. When a question is put in English, the convention is that the Minister is expected to give the answer in English. Of course, it is the right of the Minister to prefer any language... (*Interruptions*)... The question is coming from a Member belonging to a non-Hindi-speaking State...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You see, headphones have been provided. You can listen to the translation...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: I am not compelling him to reply in English...(*Interruptions*) .. But, at the same, I would like to tell that the question has come from a Member of a non-Hindi-speaking State ... (*Interruptions*)... I say this because he is struggling and he is not able to give his answer in a proper manner..(*Interruptions*)..... ..

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I am on a point of order..(*Interruptions*)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is perfectly justified. He is answering in Hindi...(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, the question comes from a Member belonging to a non-Hindi-speaking State....(*Interruptions*) ..

MR. CHAIRMAN: The translation facility is available ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: I want to get the reply directly...(*Interruptions*)... We want to hear the reply directly and not through translation...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Let us not waste time on this. Let us go on.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, if the Minister does not know English, it is all right. But if he knows it, then it is better that he replies in English...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is more fluent in Hindi and, also, Dr. Mahishi knows Hindi very well...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alais* V. ARUNACHALAM: He is answering in Hindi and we are not able to understand it directly... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Mahishi, you speak Hindi well and you understand Hindi well.. (*Interruptions*)...

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: It is not a uestion of my undersanding Hindi, Sir. The whole House should understand the reply... (*Interruptions*)..

श्री शरद यादव : सर, प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर ।..... (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर नहीं ।..... (व्यवधान) हिन्दी-अंग्रेजी का झगड़ा छोड़िये ।

श्री शरद यादव : सभापति जी, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि यदि उन्होंने हिन्दी में जवाब देना है तो देना ही है और इस तरफ के लोगों को इस तरह का अधिकार नहीं है कि वे उनको अंग्रेजी में जवाब देने के लिये कहें । अगर अपनी मातृभाषा में जवाब दे रहे हैं तो यहां पर ट्रांसलेशन का इंतजाम है । मैं अर्ज करता हूं इस तरह से कह करके या फोर्स करके उनसे न बुलवाया जाय। इस देश मे यह जो पार्लियामेंट है गुनाह कीपार्लियामेंट है।.. (व्यवधान) जो अपनी मातृभाषा में बोलें.. (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : मैंने कह दिया है । ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: It is Hindi Chauvinism.... (*Interruptions*)...

डा. (श्रीमती) सरोजनी महिषी : सर, जवाब तो आया नहीं ।

श्री सभापति : हिन्दी में जवाब दे दिया है ।... (व्यवधान)

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : जवाब नहीं दिया गया है । .... (व्यवधान)

कई माननीय सदस्य : जवाब नहीं...दिया । (व्यवधान)... **श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह** : मान्यवर, ऋसबार 1 लाख 10 हजार है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question. Question No. 62.

*62. [The Question (Shri Krishna Kumar Birla absent. For answer vide col. 32 infra]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 63. Mr. Vajpayee.

Distribution facilities for petrol, diesel etc. in hilly regions of UP and Bihar

*63. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:†

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to expand distribution facilities of petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG in hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, especially in the Tehri-Garhwal, Chhotanagpur and Mirzapur areas;

(b) how many new outlets of these different products have been opened in these areas during each of the last three years, itemwise; and

(c) what are the norms for opening more such outlets in these areas and whether these norms are different from those adopted in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.